

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM GENEVA DTD 29 NOV 1976 QTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9501

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DEPT FOR EDMONDSON FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON AND MASERU FOR AMB SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: NOV 29 BRITISH AND PATRIOTIC
FRONT MEETING

1. MUGABE AND NKOMO, BACKED BY FOUR MAN DELEGATIONS,
CALLED ON RICHARD AT 2:30 TO SUGGEST THAT RICHARD
CONVENE A PLENARY SESSION IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT TO FORMALLY MAKE ITS POSITION ON THE
DATE OF INDEPENDENCE AND ADVANCE ITS THOUGHTS ON A WORK
PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE.

2. RICHARD SAID THAT HE SAW NO REASON TO HOLD A PLENARY
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SESSION. HE WAS ALREADY DISCUSSING THE INTERIM GOVERN-

MENT WITH TWO OF THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT EVERYONE MOVE ON TO THIS SUBJECT. NKOMO AND MUGABE, AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, SAID THEY WOULD HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND MAKE THEIR POSITION PUBLIC.

3. THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT READY TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT BUT HOPED TO BE READY TOMORROW. THEY ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE (GENEVA 9102) ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH HENRY STEEL, THE LEGAL ADVISER GAVE. NKOMO AND MUGABE SAID THAT THEY WOULD COMMENT ON THE CHAIRMAN'S NOTE AS WELL AS PRESENT THEIR POSITION ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AT THE NOVEMBER 30 MEETING WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 2:30.

4. WITH REGARD TO A WORK PROGRAM, NKOMO AND MUGABE SAID THEY WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING HOW RICHARD INTENDED TO PROCEED. RICHARD REPLIED THAT HE WISHED TO DEVOTE THE NEXT 10 DAYS TO A DISCUSSION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. NKOMO SUGGESTED THAT THE SEPARATE "ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT" WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL BUT AGREED THAT COMING TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA. NEITHER HE NOR MUGABE SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT BEFORE A WORK PROGRAM HAD BEEN SETTLED.

5. COMMENT: THE BRITISH WERE AGREEABLY SURPRISED TO DISCOVER MUGABE DID NOT TRY TO PURSUE ANY "EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES." THEY ARE SATISFIED THAT THE QUESTION OF A DATE OF INDEPENDENCE IS BEHIND THEM. CATTO UNQTE ROINSON

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